

Remarks

This Amendment follows a Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated April 14, 2006, which maintained the rejections and objections of the Final Office Action dated November 3, 2005. In the Final Office Action, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 18 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In accordance with 37 CFR 41.33(a), this Amendment cancels rejected claims and rewrites in independent form the dependent claims that the Final Office Action indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Following this Amendment, claims 1, 3-16, 19-22, and 31-41 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 3, 5, and 13 are in independent form.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 2.

Claims 3 and 5 are rewritten in independent form by adding all of the limitations of the claims from which they originally depended.

Claim 13 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 18 and intervening claim 17.

Claims 2, 17-18, and 23-30 are cancelled. Claim 19, which originally depended from claim 18, is amended to depend from claim 13.

New dependent claims 31-37 depend from claim 3 and are otherwise copies of original claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10, respectively. New dependent claims 38-41 depend from claim 5 and are otherwise copies of original claims 2, 3, 6, and 7, respectively.

The subject matter of the claims, as amended, is encompassed within the scope of the original claims and should, therefore, not raise new issues that would require further consideration or searching. Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Payment of \$100 is submitted herewith for one additional independent claim, as reflected in the enclosed fee determination worksheet. The Commissioner is hereby

authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with filing of these papers, or apply overpayment, to USPTO Deposit Account No. 19-4455.

Respectfully submitted,

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